

presents

## BÉLO

**BÉLO**, Lead Vocalist and Acoustic Guitar  
**Rodyoume "Ume" Dieujuste**, Electric Guitar  
**Junior Dorcelus**, Electric Guitar  
**Emmanuel Jean-Baptist**, Drums  
**Wesner St. Louis**, Percussion  
**Josue Jude Nazaire**, Bass

**Theresa Teague**, Company Manager/Translator

[www.CenterStageUS.org](http://www.CenterStageUS.org)

**ON TOUR: October 20-November 18, 2012**

### MEDIA BOOK



Center Stage is made possible by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, and with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General management for Center Stage is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.

# BéIO

## TOUR ROUTE



## Distance between cities

Washington, DC to Northampton, MA – 387 miles

Northampton, MA to Boston, MA – 103 miles

Boston, MA to North Adams, MA – 150 miles

North Adams, MA to Rockport, ME – 290 miles

Rockport, ME to Portland, ME – 79 miles

Portland, ME to New London, CT – 212 miles

New London, CT to Gainesville, FL – 1129 miles

Gainesville, FL to West Palm Beach, FL – 272 miles

TOTAL: 2622 miles



## U.S. Department of State Welcomes Haitian Performer BéIO to the United States, Brings Cultural Diplomacy to Main Street America

### Media Note

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

October 18, 2012

The U.S. Department of State announced today that from October 21- November 17, 2012, Haitian musician BéIO will travel from Pétion-Ville, Haiti to communities across America as part of a cultural diplomacy initiative, **Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>**. This tour will take BéIO to Washington, DC; Northampton, MA; Roxbury, MA; North Adams, MA; Boothbay Harbor, ME; Rockport, ME; Portland, ME; New London, CT; Gainesville, FL; and Palm Beach, FL.

Building on Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton's emphasis on utilizing "smart power", **Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>** brings performing artists from Haiti, Indonesia, and Pakistan to the United States to interact with American audiences in 60 medium and small-sized towns and cities, using the performing arts to create opportunities for greater understanding. For a full list of artists and performance dates, [click here](#).

**BéIO** will kick off his tour on Sunday, October 21 at 6 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC. The performance is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcasted live [here](#).

**Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>** is a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General management is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.










For more information, contact Katie Leasor, U.S. Department of State at [Leasork@state.gov](mailto:Leasork@state.gov)

PRN: 2012/1666



## current project > béLO, 2012 center stage tour

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### Bridging Haiti's Grooves for Good: BéLO Rocks His African Roots to Inspire Change at Home in Haiti and Abroad

BéLO, Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of


Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation. BéLO keeps the socially conscious spirit of reggae alive, while drawing on the vibrant sounds of his artsy native town of Croix des Bouquet, and a globally informed, upbeat pan-African vibe. It was there BéLO first performed as a shy grade schooler, and recorded his first tape.

Summers, he spent time with his grandparents in a remote village, where he heard and experienced *vodou*, Haiti's unique mix of spiritual and musical traditions that permeates all aspects of rural life and helps support social cohesion.

Both before and after Haiti's 2010 earthquake, BéLO has made music and performance a powerful platform for addressing issues and transforming opinion. Whether singing to children in orphanages or raising awareness of AIDS, BéLO knows exactly why he does what he does, as audiences across the U.S. will experience in **September and October 2012** thanks to BéLO's participation in **Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>** ([www.centerstageUS.org](http://www.centerstageUS.org)).

"With the love I have for my country, I can only give back," he reflects. "I make music because I really want things to change, and I believe in the power of music to do that. For that reason, Center Stage is very important to me as an artist. Not only will I be able to learn more about the American culture, but I can also share my culture with a broader audience and show the good side of Haiti."

An initiative of the **U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**, **Center Stage** brings compelling contemporary artists from Haiti, Indonesia, and Pakistan to the United States to engage the American people in cultural diplomacy as a way to create opportunities for greater understanding. Administered by the **New England Foundation for the Arts**, with funding from the **Asian Cultural Council**, the **Robert Sterling Clark Foundation**, and the **Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art**, this public-private partnership is the **largest public diplomacy effort to bring foreign artists** to American stages in recent history.

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**Sample Track 1:**  
"Kote Moun Yo" from  
Haiti Debut

**Sample Track 2:**  
"Wozo featuring Blink  
Bassy" from Haiti  
Debut

**Sample Track 3:**  
"Banda" from Haiti  
Debut



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In a country where music is everywhere singer, songwriter, and guitarist BéLO grew up, hearing Latin-inflected, high-energy Haitian *konpa* and the rising wave of *vodou*-rock bands like Boukman Eksperyans, as well as French pop and Jamaican music from dancehall star Buju Banton to Bob Marley.

Yet BéLO also experienced another source of deep musical influence: “I think the music I heard in the countryside when I used to go on vacation impacted me a lot,” BéLO recalls. “If you were in my neighborhood with me as a child, you’d be between two different worlds. In town, we’d listen to pop and rock and reggae. On vacation, we’d listen to *vodou* music. We’d hear how people would make music while they worked. How the woman doing her washing at the river would just sing so naturally. She doesn’t do it to express anything. She just sings. I learned a lot from that.”

BéLO’s own music—which can leap from R&B grooves to clever jazz-inflected chords, from punchy brass to undulating bass—further evolved as he gained international acclaim in Europe and made friends in the Francophone African music scene in Paris. Whether jamming with members of Malian icon Salif Keita’s band or recording with bass players from Benin or *ngoni* (West African lute) performers, BéLO feels the powerful connection between diverse African sounds and his own native blend.

“Haitian music has kept a lot of what roots music from Africa was four hundred years ago,” BéLO explains. “We’re just one small island. But you can find rhythms from different countries from across the African continent. It makes our traditional music very rich.”

Other rich traditions from Haiti permeate BéLO’s songs, including the intense expressiveness of the Kreyòl language and the warmth of Haitian hospitality, something, BéLO notes, you really have to experience firsthand to believe. “It’s hard to describe how kind people in Haiti can be,” he says. “They’ll give you their shirt to wear and their bed to sleep on, no matter how poor they are.”

This generosity of spirit powers BéLO’s polished, often urgent, always catchy songs and permeates his onstage presence. Whether playing on a porch or for presidents, BéLO longs to engage his audience in ways that go beyond culture and language. At a recent concert in Miami, for instance, he was moved by the story of a young fan, who spoke no Kreyòl but had dreamed about a particular song. “It’s crazy,” he laughs, “to make that kind of impression. That’s what music can do.”

Yet it is other dreams that BéLO strives to spark in his listeners, dreams that insist that things can get better, even in a troubled, divided land. “We’re starting to have movement in Haiti. The youth are seeing that something can change. That it’s not up to the president to stop violence or clean up the neighborhood. It’s up to us,” BéLO says. “Artists are trying to give good positive messages now. I hope, if we keep on, that in ten or twenty years, we’ll have change.”

“I was chosen to be an activist artist,” he exclaims. “It would be easier to earn more money or be more popular doing love songs. But I was born an activist musician. I live it, I feel it, and I have a vision.”

**Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>** will bring 10 ensembles from Haiti, Indonesia and



*Pakistan to the U.S. for month-long tours from June-December 2012, connecting artists with diverse communities across the country. Residencies will include performances, workshops, discussions, people-to-people exchanges, and community gatherings. Keep up with Center Stage by liking the program on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/CenterStagePage>) and following us on Twitter (@centerstageus).*

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CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor  
Richard J. Alcombright

October 28, 2012

## City of North Adams Welcomes BéLO

**Be It Proclaimed**, that BéLO has come to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and the City of North Adams, in conjunction with MCLA Presents! and CENTERSTAGE, a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

**WHEREAS**, BéLO is a progressive voice for the social and political transformation of his home Haiti and abroad through his music; and

**WHEREAS**, BéLO through his music reaches audiences around the globe and moves them to action as he reflects in verse the complexities, joys and struggles of his home Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, BéLO has been hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador and utilizes this distinction to help others through his efforts within the Haitian Red Cross, UNICEF, as an advocate for the disabled and as a patron of Hope for Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, BéLO knows that being an activist musician is not the easiest road to fame but it is his passion, his vision and therefore the only road;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that I, Richard J. Alcombright, Mayor of the City of North Adams, am honored to welcome BéLO as he shares his message rooted in culture. Additionally, the City is proud to host BéLO and we applaud his efforts to share the story of Haiti through music and his humanitarian efforts that enrich the lives of others.



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Richard J. Alcombright  
Mayor



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## BéLO

BéLO, Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation at home and abroad. A singer, songwriter and guitarist, BéLO keeps the socially conscious spirit of reggae alive, while drawing on the vibrant sounds of his artsy native town of Croix des Bouquet, and a globally informed, upbeat pan-African vibe.

Based in Pétiyon Vil, Haiti's music central, and equally at home among the Afro-French communities around the world, BéLO finds powerful sonic ties that span the Atlantic and powerful ways to move audiences, to action and to sing along. His Kreyol lyrics reflect the complexities, joys and struggles of Haiti today.

Hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador he is a spokesperson for the Haitian Red Cross, UNICEF, is an official advocate for Haiti's disabled, and a patron of "Hope for Haiti." These commitments are evident in BéLO's polished, often urgent, always catchy songs, and fuel his onstage presence. Whether playing on a porch or for presidents, BéLO longs to engage his audience in ways that go beyond culture and language.

"I was chosen to be an activist artist," exclaims BéLO. "It would be easier to earn more money or be more popular doing love songs. But I was born an activist musician. I live it, I feel it, and I have a vision."

Haiti Debout (Haiti Stand Up!), BéLO's third album, was released in 2011 and is dedicated to Haiti and the strength of the Haitian people. A lyric from Wozo (Reed), one of record's many fine tracks, captures its spirit: "Ou se wozo ... ou mèt tande'w pliye, ou pap kase." "You are a reed. You will bend, but you will not break."

[Hide Full Biography](#)

## Watch Past Performances



### 10/21/12: BéLO

The socially conscious Haitian singer-songwriter and his band play a high-energy mix of jazz, worldbeat, rock, reggae, and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm known as Ragganga. Part of *Center Stage*, a pilot program created by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in partnership with New England Foundation for the Arts.

## Images



## TheSource.com Talks To Belo



Posted: Oct 8, 2012 by [Lu](#)

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### Where did get the Belo name from?

My full name is Jean Bélony Murat, when I was a kid my mother use to call me BéLO. I keep it for my artist name because it's easy to pronounce in many languages.

### What part of Haiti are you from?

I come from a very small village in the east of Port-au-Prince called Croix-des-Bouquets

### What is the music scene in Haiti like?

Haiti has various scenes with different style of music. Haiti has lots of talented musicians. Presently there is a big movement of acoustic and alternative musicians. We have Rap Kreyol, Rasin, Konpa, Hip Hop, and Reggae influence and my style which is "Ragganga".

### You have been doing music for a while now, how has the road been for you?

I have been doing music since the age of 11. I decided to become a professional musician, but waited after I finished school on 2005, that is when my first album "Lakou Tranki" came out. I was lucky enough to win the prestigious "Prix Radio France International Discoveries of 2006." I have been on the road for awhile now, and it has been very good to me.

### You have been touring all over the world, what is that experience like and do you have any interesting stories to share?

Every show is a piece to my puzzle, and giving a better image of my country overseas is my goal; but my favorite story really has little to do with music. My first trip to Africa was Cameroon for "Prix RFI 2006." The first night when I arrive, the musicians and I were invites to a dinner. I had jetlag, so I really couldn't stay until the end of the dinner. A couple of the musicians and I decided to go back to the hotel. We took a taxi, and the taxi driver took us for a ride. We were ambushed and stop by the local police. We had to give whiskey money to be released, if you know what I mean...

### How did the earthquake affect you and your music if at all?

The earthquake affected every Haitians, in a way or another. The day before the earthquake I had left Haiti for a concert in Guadeloupe. It was very hard for me to stay

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without any news from friends and family for two days. I decided not to cancel my performance on Jan 16, 2010 at L'artchipel in Guadeloupe, and instead to have a benefit concert and show support to my country. My home was fractured, and I was able to relocate temporarily in France with the help of Cultures France. The experience changed my plan, and my life. I have learned so many things from this bad experience that I want to turn it into something good, like a new beginning for my country. I think every one should learn from this experience, and try to be a better man every single day.

**Your album *Reference* is getting some recognition all over world. I saw you perform on TV 5 Monde. Is this your biggest album to date?**

My debut album *Lakou Trankil* gave me a lot of recognition, this album introduced me to the public, and I received many awards, especially the "Prix RFI Award." *Reference* was my first international album because the first, *Lakou Trankil*, was not distributed globally. I love each album just like my mother loves all her children. They are all different, and they are all good. I really can't say which one is the biggest, based on which criteria: touring more? sales? message? or musically? It is difficult to say.

**What is the next step for Belo?**

I want to produce other artists. I have different projects that I am working on right now like: Festival in my village "Croix des bouquet" on Oct 5-6, and new album for a young artist and a cultural center with a library.

**Is there anything else people should know about Belo that they don't know?**

I like to be challenged, and mostly I am a risk taker when it comes to composing music. Oh! I would like to open up for David Matthew's band one day.

[Belo Lakou Trankil Album](#)

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Sunday, 28 October, 2012 3:39 am

Posted by [kimberly](#)

## BelO's Center Stage U.S Tour By The U.S. Department Of State



*Center Stage is a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, and with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General management for Center Stage is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.*

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On their Center Stage tour (October 21 to November 17), BÉLO and his band visits Washington, DC, with multiple stops in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida.

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## Haitian guitarist Bélo plays for the cause at Millennium Stage

*October 20, 2012 | 8:00 pm*

Back in August 2010, Haitian guitarist Bélo, along with 23 other musicians around the world, participated in a program sponsored by the State Department. The idea was to promote tolerance of others through the arts. The tour started in D.C. and, while here, he and the group had a chance to visit the Kennedy Center.

"I told my friends that I would someday perform [there]," Bélo said. "They didn't believe me, but two years later, I am going to play for the first time at the Kennedy Center to start the Center Stage tour."

Indeed, this socially conscience author, composer, guitarist and singer from earthquake-ravaged Haiti appears with his band on the Millennium Stage on Sunday in what Bélo considers a fine opportunity to show a better image of Haiti to American audiences.



"My music is a fusion, just like my country," he continued. "There is the jazz, roots, rock and reggae influence around my Haitian-African heritage. Ragganga is the name of my style ... based on Haitian traditional music mixed with modern rhythms."

Along with his ragganga, this multiple award-winning musician is patron of the nonprofit Hope for Haiti, contributor to UNICEF and Volunteers of Development of Haiti, and also a spokesperson for the Haitian Red Cross. As ambassador of Haitian culture, his commitments are to the causes of the less fortunate, the education of children and respect for women. He is equally dedicated to social solidarity, environmental protection and peace in Haiti and around the world. His music speaks volumes on behalf of these causes.

Traveling with Bélo for this tour is his bass player, who has been with him from the beginning, and a drummer he has shared the stage with since 2009. The group format features bass, drums, two guitars, congas and Bélo himself.

"I have a lot to learn from the U.S.," he said. "As a cultural ambassador of Haiti, I am not a musician by chance. I do music to make a difference."

# The Berkshire Eagle

  
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Thursday October 25, 2012

## Haitian songwriter BÉLO will perform at MCLA in North Adams

By Lindsey Marie Hollenbaugh, Berkshire Eagle Staff, Berkshire Eagle

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*Haitian songwriter BÉLO will perform jazz, reggae and rock-influenced music at MCLA. (Courtesy of MCLA)*

NORTH ADAMS -- With his non-traditional mix of jazz, reggae, rock, world beat and a little bit of Vodou rhythm, Haitian composer and singer BÉLO is taking his guitar and goodwill on the road with a stop in the Berkshires.

His home, country, Haiti, has often called BÉLO its musical ambassador to the world. He will take up a short residency at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts from Saturday through Wednesday, wrapping up his visit with a performance open to the community on Tuesday.

"MCLA's Presents!"-- a project of the college's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center --hopes, through visits like BÉLO's, to introduce the campus and North Adams community to different cultures by bringing in performers from around the world.

"We work hard to bring in a diverse, varied group of performers -- varied in discipline, in cultural heritage," said Jonathan Secor, director of MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center. "Hopefully, it's things people might not have opportunity to see elsewhere, or at least not in North Adams."

BÉLO's visit to Berkshire County is also part of a larger initiative by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs called "Center Stage." The program gives funding to bring artists from countries with a troubled relationship with the United States to rural towns like North Adams to expose both parties to new cultures.

Secor was one of four people from across the country chosen to go to Haiti to help pick the artist for the state department's program.

"What we think of Haiti is a Haiti in desperate need," said Secor. "So many of us have that image, but what we actually saw when we visited there is a rich culture. I was reminded of its rich artistic heritage and history including contemporary art. They are doing such interesting work there."

Secor said BÉLO stood out to the group not only because he's an excellent musician -- who has mixed traditional Haitian sounds with different genres to create a sound truly his own -- but also because of his work as an unofficial ambassador for the people of Haiti, for people with disabilities, and for AIDS and the environment.

"He's extraordinarily personable," Secor said. "He's young, and he's connected to Haiti. We're definitely looking forward to him connecting with students."

The Tuesday performance starts at 8 p.m. at the Church Street Center. MCLA students will provide the opening acts: NeXXus, the college's stem team and senior Jessica Jean-Charles, a classically trained vocalist who will be singing some old jazz favorites.

"I picked music based on [BÉLO's] genre, which is kind of a new wave jazz," said Jean-Charles, an arts management major. "I'm really excited to be performing."

For Jean-Charles, who is Haitian too, it's exciting to have an artist like BÉLO visit the campus.

"I basically grew up listening to old-school Haitian music with my family, and I've never heard anything like his music before," she said. "To get the chance to meet him and talk with him is amazing."

Secor said they work to keep the ticket prices low so that more people will come to hear the music.

"He's a really good musician," Secor said, explaining that BÉLO sings often in his native Haitian Creole. "He can connect even though he's singing in different language for the most part."



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## BéLO in Boothbay Harbor

*Haitian recording artist/activist performs at the high school and Opera House*

By LISA KRISTOFF, Staff Reporter

Posted: Thursday, November 1, 2012 - 10:15pm

Students in Boothbay Region High School and seventh and eighth graders at Boothbay Region Elementary School will be entertained by Haitian recording artist BéLO and his band Friday, Nov. 2, from 1:45 to 2:25 p.m. That evening, BéLO and the band will perform at the Opera House at 7:30 p.m.

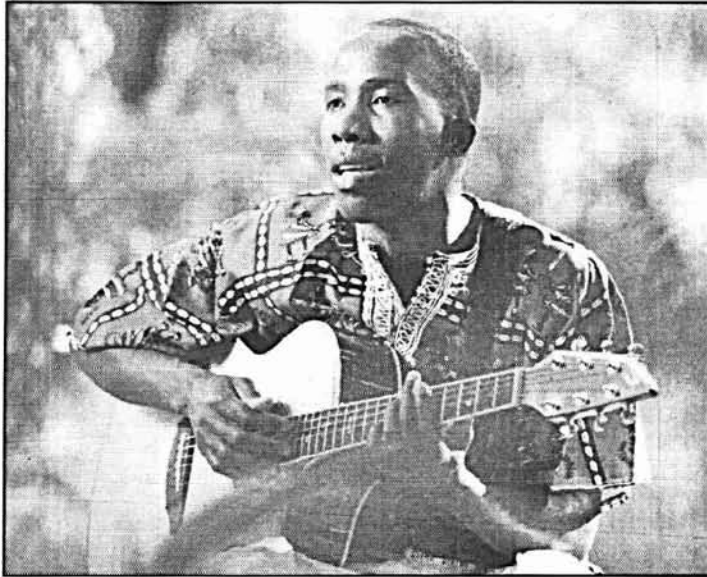
BéLO's music is a combination of reggae, jazz and rock sung in his native Haitian Creole. He uses his music and lyrics to promote peace, call attention to people in need, the importance of education for children and childrens' rights, respect for women, and protection of the environment. His fundraising performances have been for AIDS awareness, the Red Cross, the rights of children, Haitian relief and many others.

The performance is an Opera House Goes To School Program, sponsored by Knickerbocker Group in Boothbay. Cathy Sherrill, the Opera House's program director responded to a request from the U.S. State Department to schools interested in participating in the school outreach program.

"It's a big thing for us to have been chosen," Sherrill said. "Some of the other venues in this 2-week tour include the Kravis Center in Palm Beach, University of Florida, Connecticut College, The Kennedy Center for the Arts, and the Academy of Music in Northhampton, Massachusetts ... pretty lofty company."

To learn more about BéLO and hear his music, visit [www.belo.com](http://www.belo.com).

## MUSICAL NOTES



Before performing at Rockland's Strand Theatre Saturday, Nov. 3, Haitian reggae star BéLO will share his music, message and culture Thursday afternoon, Nov. 1 with staff and inmates of the Maine State Prison; and 6:30 p.m. that evening in the recital hall of Bay Chamber Community Music School in Rockport.

PHOTO BY: SIDNEY ETIENNE

## BéLO brings Haiti to the Midcoast





ROCKLAND — Bay Chamber Concerts dives into new musical territory this fall in presenting Haitian reggae star BÉLO Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Strand Theatre, 345 Main St. A young, socially conscious singer/songwriter, BÉLO and his five-piece band deliver a high-energy mix of jazz, worldbeat, rock, R&B, reggae and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm.

BÉLO's remarkable voice and dynamic live performances powerfully connect the music of his native island to the vibrant Parisian Afro-global music scene. Long established as a platform for the finest classical chamber music, Bay Chamber Concerts has announced an October-to-June series that re-positions the organization within Midcoast Maine's vibrant music scene.

Born in Haiti in 1979, BÉLO has been hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador to the world with a sophisticated sound. He and his band have won numerous awards including the prestigious Prix Radio France International Discoveries of 2006 with a sound that is a sublime mixture of jazz, worldbeat, rock, Reggae and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythms known as ragganga. He cites Jamaican reggae/dancehall star Buj Banton as one of his primary inspirations.

With the two albums already under his belt — "Lakou Trankil" (2005) and "Reference" (2008), sung in his rich and colorful native language, Haitian Creole — BÉLO has established himself as a Haitian/international artist signpost.

After the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, BÉLO's home was fractured and he was able to relocate temporarily in France with the help of Cultures France. During that time, BÉLO's primary focus was to create awareness for his country at various

performances around the world. Upon returning to Haiti, BÉLO's third album, last year's "Haiti Debout (Haiti Stand-up)," was released under Radio France/France Info and distributed globally by Harmonia Mundi. Already on the first leg of the "Haiti Debout" tour, BÉLO has performed in Germany, Rome, Romania, France and the United States. In addition to his musical success, BÉLO's humanitarian work to rebuild Haiti has been featured on PBS' "Frontline."

Seating will be general admission. Tickets are \$35; \$25 for those age 21 to 35; and \$10 for those younger than 22. Subscribers can save up to 25 percent by attending multiple events this season. For more information and tickets, call the box office at 236-2823 or visit [baychamberconcerts.org](http://baychamberconcerts.org).

BÉLO's Midcoast visit is thanks in part to his participation in Center Stage, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs that brings compelling contemporary artists from Haiti, Indonesia and Pakistan to the United States. Administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with funding from the Asian Cultural Council, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, this public-private partnership is the largest public diplomacy effort to bring foreign artists to American stages in recent history.



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## Haitian star meets Midcoast

Oct 19, 2012

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Bay Chamber Concerts' Community Engagement Program will bring Haitian musician BÉLO to both the Maine State Prison and Bay Chamber Community School.

Before performing at Rockland's Strand Theatre Saturday, Nov. 3, Haitian reggae star BÉLO will share his music, message and culture with the Midcoast thanks to Bay Chamber's Community Engagement Program.

On Thursday, Nov. 1, BÉLO and his five-piece band will perform for inmates and staff at Maine State Prison in the morning. Later, at 6:30 p.m., he will host a free, unplugged Artist Encounter in the recital hall of Bay Chamber Community Music School, 18 Central St. BÉLO's participation is supported by Center for Cultural Exchange Foundation and New England Foundation for the Arts.

Community Engagement at Bay Chamber is designed to promote connection and musical engagement between artists and participants. At its core is artistic excellence — professional musicians who combine spectacular artistic ability with a dedication to bringing the transformative power of music into communities. Understanding that each venue has its own unique needs and goals, Community Engagement is collaboration between the presenting organization and the partner organizations. To engage with people of diverse ages, backgrounds and abilities, Bay Chamber welcomes classically trained musicians as well as performers of musical genres.

The free evening Artist Encounter with BÉLO is open to the community. The artist will take advantage of the intimate setting to perform an acoustic sampling of his songs. In addition, he will discuss Haitian culture, the messages in his songwriting and answer questions.

Internationally known singer/songwriter and guitarist BÉLO was born in Haiti in 1979. A socially conscious musician with a sophisticated sound, he is the winner of numerous awards including the prestigious Prix Radio France International Discoveries of 2006. After the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, BÉLO's home was fractured and he was able to relocate temporarily in France with the help of Cultures France. During that time,

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BéLO's primary focus was to create awareness for his country at various performances around the world.

In a country where music is everywhere, BéLO grew up hearing Latin-inflected, high-energy Haitian konpa and the rising wave of vodou-rock bands like Boukman Eksperyans, as well as French pop and Jamaican music from dancehall star Buj Banton to Bob Marley. Another source of deep musical influence was the vodou music of the countryside. His own music — which can leap from R&B grooves to clever jazz-inflected chords and from punchy brass to undulating bass — further evolved as he gained international acclaim in Europe and made friends in the Francophone African music scene in Paris.

"Haitian music has kept a lot of what roots music from Africa was 400 years ago. We're just one small island. But you can find rhythms from different countries from across the African continent," he said of his country's rich musical tradition.

Seating is limited for the Thursday night event; call 236-2823 to reserve a spot. Tickets to see BéLO and his five-piece band Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Strand are \$35; \$25 for ages 21 to 35; and \$10 for those younger than 22.

*Courier Publications' A&E Editor Dagney C. Ernest can be reached at (207) 594-4401, ext. 115 or [dernest@courierpublicationsllc.com](mailto:dernest@courierpublicationsllc.com).*

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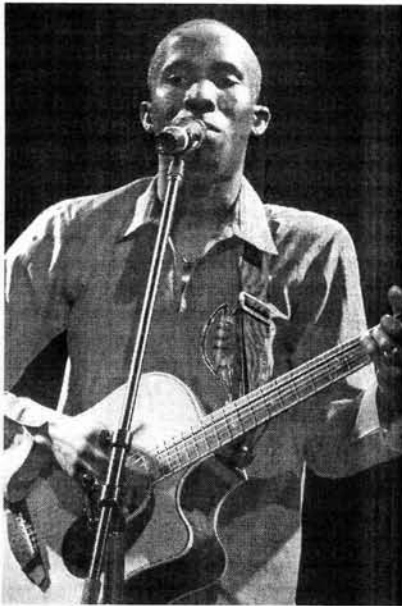
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## Haitian musical ambassador Bélo in concert



**Haitian musical ambassador  
BelO in Concert on Fri., Nov. 2 at  
7:30 p.m. at the Opera House.**

BéLO, Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation at home and abroad, is in concert at the Opera House in Boothbay Harbor, Fri., Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

A singer, songwriter and guitarist, BÉLO keeps the socially conscious spirit of reggae alive, while drawing on the vibrant sounds of his artsy native town of Croix des Bouquet, and a globally informed, upbeat pan-African vibe.

Based in Pétiyon Ville, Haiti's musical center, and equally at home among the Afro-French communities around the world, BÉLO finds powerful sonic ties that span the Atlantic and powerful ways to move audiences, to action and to sing along. His Kreyol lyrics reflect the complexities, joys and struggles of Haiti today.

Hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador he is a spokesperson for the Haitian Red Cross, UNICEF, is an official advocate for Haiti's disabled, and a patron of "Hope for Haiti."

These commitments are evident

in BÉLO's polished, often urgent, always catchy songs, and fuel his onstage presence. Whether playing on a porch or for presidents, BÉLO longs to engage his audience in ways that go beyond culture and language.

"I was chosen to be an activist artist," said BÉLO. "It would be easier to earn more money or be more popular doing love songs. But I was born an activist musician. I live it, I feel it, and I have a vision."

His 2012 U.S. tour includes performances on the Millennium Stage at The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.) as well as concerts in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida. For information about the band, visit [www.belohaiti.com](http://www.belohaiti.com).

Diplomacy doesn't just happen in conference rooms or at embassies. It can burst out in classrooms and studios, on town greens and beside historic landmarks, in coffee shops and arts centers, moving from person to person, between artist and arts lover.

From June - December 2012, 10 different contemporary performing arts ensembles from Haiti, Indonesia and Pakistan are making independent month-long tours in the USA as part of Center Stage.

Center Stage is a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Dept. of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, and with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation.

Residencies include performances, workshops, discussions, people-to-people exchanges, and community gatherings. This public-private partnership is the largest public diplomacy effort to bring foreign artists to American stages in recent history.

BélÔ's performance begins at 7:30 p.m. with doors for seating open at 7. Advance tickets are \$15. Tickets purchased on the day of the concert are \$20. Students under age 18 are admitted free with paying adult.

The Opera House box office at



Also performing concert for Maine State Prison inmates

## Haitian activist change artist, musician BÉLO coming to Rockport, Rockland, Boothbay Harbor

By Holly S. Edwards



*BÉLO will rock his African roots to inspire change at home in Haiti, and abroad. (Photo courtesy Bay Chamber Concerts/By Frederic Dupoux)*

**ROCKPORT —** Haitian musician BÉLO's visit to Midcoast Maine later this week will undoubtedly have an impact on many people, from school children and teenage and adult musicians to inmates at Maine State Prison in Warren, and for music lovers of all ages.

And that's exactly how BÉLO wants it. He is a man on a mission to spread the message that Haitians need to come together to find solutions, and to ensure the world does not forget about Haiti.

BÉLO is due to arrive in Camden Wednesday, Oct. 31, Halloween evening. At 9 a.m. the next day, Nov. 1, he and his band will perform an hour-long concert at the prison.

Both before and after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, BÉLO made music and performance powerful platforms for addressing issues and transforming opinion. Whether singing to children in orphanages or raising awareness of AIDS, BÉLO "knows exactly why he does what he does," as audiences across the U.S. have been experiencing this fall, thanks for his participation in **Center Stage**.

Center Stage is an initiative of the U.S. Dept. of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Its mission is to bring "compelling contemporary artists abroad to the U.S. to engage Americans in cultural diplomacy as a way to create opportunities for greater understanding," according to its website.

Center Stage tours provides opportunities for international performing artists to engage with diverse communities and youth; offers Americans the chance to grow in their understanding and appreciation of other nations; and provides for deeper engagement for both Americans and visiting artists, the latter who will return home with direct experiences to share in their own communities.

*Continued next page...*

BÉLO's native town is Croix des Bouquet. In the summer, he spent time with his grandparents in a remote village, where he heard and experienced vodou, Haiti's unique mix of spiritual and musical traditions that permeates all aspects of rural life and helps support social cohesion. Described as an "outspoken groove innovator," BÉLO interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation, according to a press release.

"With the love I have for my country, I can only give back," said BÉLO in the release. "I make music because I really want things to change, and I believe in the power of music to do that. For that reason, Center Stage is very important to me as an artist. Not only will I be able to learn more about the American culture, but I can also share my culture with a broader audience and show the good side of Haiti."

BÉLO performed at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington D.C., Oct. 21, and held five concerts at three Massachusetts venues between Oct. 24 and Oct. 30.

Following his prison concert Thursday morning as part of Bay Chamber Concert's Community Engagement Program, BÉLO is hosting a free, community, unplugged "artist encounter" at 6:30 p.m. at Bay Chamber Music School in Rockport Village.

Nov. 2 he will perform at the Boothbay Opera House in Boothbay Harbor and then travel back north to Rockland, for a concert Saturday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Strand Theatre. Tickets are available by calling 236-2823 or online at baychamberconcerts.org.

Nov. 4 and 5, BÉLO will perform in Portland at Portland Ovation with renowned Haitian storyteller and artist Charlot Lucien.

Lucien knows BÉLO through his songs, and said BÉLO is from the generation of artists that emerged after Lucien left Haiti.

"I left in 1981," he said, over the phone Oct. 26. "I know of BÉLO's reputation with social causes. I am not surprised that he is performing at the prison as part of his social engagement. Most artists in Haiti would have this interest, given conditions they observe on a regular basis and through extending solidarity in bad situations and conditions."

He said: "I see it whenever there is a sense of people suffering, people in need of some sort of redemption. It could be that there is something that happened in the past, in life and they are quote, 'paying the price,' or unjustly suffering from

a situation unjustly, political or social. In both, one thinks of a concept of redemption."

Lucien said that for people who might have done something wrong, or are subject to wrongs in a situation, they are looking for hope and redemption, and longing for change and hope.

"They may benefit from the solidarity of someone coming from a country long-suffering from injustice, and they might be inspired," said Lucien.

Without knowing exactly what BÉLO's reasons are for choosing to perform for the prison inmates in Warren, Lucien said it has been his experience that the common themes of injustice and suffering are often why Haitians join together.

"It's that connection with somebody who came from a place where people are constantly coming from a tough place," said Lucien. "He hopes to connect people to the work he does."

That work, Lucien said, also includes BÉLO's work toward HIV AIDS education, and compassion.

"To his credit, BÉLO has actually ventured into singing for people who are HIV positive, to take a stand against the stigma against people with HIV AIDS," he said. "For BÉLO to take a stand, it's a clear indication of his character, because it could alienate an audience to do that, but it's so important to him to help these people and to help the audience too."

As a storyteller, Lucien also tries to connect people, to give them a perspective of Haiti that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about.

Lucien's stories include social satirical observations of community life in Haiti. It is humor, he said, but it's also serious. Lucien also practices traditional Haitian folktales, which often include monsters, devils and magic realism of Haiti.

"The Haitian folktales I present to elementary and high school children has to do with reminiscences of Africa, and African culture that has been passed on from generation to generation," said Lucien. "There are plenty of lions and tigers and other animals not part of the real landscape of Haiti, but of Africa."

A lot of his stories are told in English, but nearly all of his recorded stories in Creole.

*Continued next page...*

His performance in Portland with BÉLO will include a presentation showing historical connections that exist between Americans and Haitians that he has unearthed and will shine a light on. One of those connections includes the naming of a street in Haiti after Massachusetts political figure Charles Sumner. And in 1776, 1,500 Haitian troops traveled to fight alongside U.S. troops, said Lucien.

"It took me to come to the U.S. to realize the connections between the U.S. and Haiti," said Lucien. "Once we start understanding those historical bonds, we will realize we are not so foreign to each other and the spontaneous responses of humanity, and possibly the continuation of solidarity between the two countries, will continue because of that deep, historical connection we have. And it's something you won't find in the history books."

BÉLO also understands and feels the pull between the past and present, according to his biography. In a country where "music is everywhere," he is said to have grown up hearing Latin-inflected, high-energy Haitian konpa and the rising wave of vodou-rock bands like Boukman Eksperyans, as well as French pop and Jamaican music, from dancehall star Buju Banton to Bob Marley.

He also experienced another source of deep musical influence, according to his bio.

"I think the music I heard in the countryside when I used to go on vacation impacted me a lot," BÉLO said in the release. "If you were in my neighborhood with me as a child, you'd be between two different worlds. In town, we'd listen to pop and rock and reggae. On vacation, we'd listen to *vodou* music. We'd hear how people would make music while they worked. How the woman doing her washing at the river would just sing so naturally. She doesn't do it to express anything. She just sings. I learned a lot from that."

BÉLO's own music, which can leap from R&B grooves to clever jazz-inflected chords, and punchy brass to undulating bass, further evolved as he gained international acclaim in Europe and made friends in the Francophone African music scene in Paris. Whether jamming with members of Malian icon Salif Keita's band or recording with

bass players from Benin or ngoni (West African lute) performers, BÉLO is said to feel the powerful connection between diverse African sounds and his own native blend.

"Haitian music has kept a lot of what roots music from Africa was 400 years ago," BÉLO said. "We're just one small island. But you can find rhythms from different countries from across the African continent. It makes our traditional music very rich."

Other rich traditions from Haiti permeate BÉLO's songs, including the expressiveness of the Kreyòl language and the warmth of Haitian hospitality, something both BÉLO and Lucien said one really has to experience firsthand to believe.

"It's hard to describe how kind people in Haiti can be," BÉLO said. "They'll give you their shirt to wear and their bed to sleep on, no matter how poor they are."

This generosity of spirit powers BÉLO's songs and permeates his onstage presence. Whether playing on a porch or for presidents, it is said that BÉLO longs to engage his audience in ways that go beyond culture and language.

"That's what music can do," said BÉLO.

Yet it is other dreams that BÉLO strives to spark in his listeners, according to his bio, dreams that insist that things can get better, even in a troubled, divided land.

"We're starting to have movement in Haiti," he said. "The youth are seeing that something can change. That it's not up to the president to stop violence or clean up the neighborhood. It's up to us," said BÉLO. "Artists are trying to give good positive messages now. I hope, if we keep on that in 10 or 20 years, we'll have change."

In his bio, BÉLO said he was "chosen to be an activist artist."

"It would be easier to earn more money or be more popular doing love songs. But I was born an activist musician. I live it, I feel it and I have a vision," said BÉLO.

Event Website: <http://www.belohaiti.com/>

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AT THE OPERA HOUSE

## BéLO at Opera House

Submitted By The Boothbay Opera House | Posted: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 - 9:15am

**Event Date:**

Friday, November 2, 2012 - 7:30pm

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BéLO, Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation at home and abroad. A singer, songwriter and guitarist, BéLO keeps the socially conscious spirit of reggae alive, while drawing on the vibrant sounds of his artsy native town of Croix des Bouquet, and a globally informed, upbeat pan-African vibe. On Friday, Nov. 2, BéLO will perform a public concert at the Opera House in Boothbay Harbor.

Based in Pétion Ville, Haiti's musical center, and equally at home among the Afro-French communities around the world, BéLO finds powerful sonic ties that span the Atlantic and powerful ways to move audiences, to action and to sing along. His Kreyol lyrics reflect the complexities, joys and struggles of Haiti today.

Hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador he is a spokesperson for the Haitian Red Cross, UNICEF, is an official advocate for Haiti's disabled, and a patron of Hope for Haiti. These commitments are evident in BéLO's polished, often urgent, always catchy songs, and fuel his onstage presence. Whether playing on a porch or for presidents, BéLO longs to engage his audience in ways that go beyond culture and language.

"I was chosen to be an activist artist," BéLO said. "It would be easier to earn more money or be more popular doing love songs. But I was born an activist musician. I live it, I feel it, and I have a vision."

His 2012 U.S. tour includes performances on the Millennium Stage at The Kennedy Center as well as concerts in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida. For information about the band, visit [www.belohaiti.com](http://www.belohaiti.com).

BéLO's performance begins at 7:30 p.m. with doors for seating open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15. Tickets purchased on the day of the concert are \$20. Students under age 18 are admitted free with paying adult. The Opera House box office at 86 Townsend Ave. is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by calling 633-5159. Tickets are also available at [www.boothbayoperahouse.com](http://www.boothbayoperahouse.com).

BéLO's performance at the Opera House, as well as a special performance for Boothbay Region High School students, is made possible by generous support from The Knickerbocker Group in Boothbay.

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## Haitian Guitarist & Singer BéLO

October 24, 2012

Haitian guitarist and singer BéLO was in Guadeloupe when a massive earthquake hit Haiti on 12 January 2010. BéLO immediately performed a series of concerts to raise funds to rebuild his country. Throughout his career, BéLO has been devoted to the cause of the less fortunate, the education of children, respect for women, social solidarity and peace in Haiti. Carrie Saldosits down with him prior to his concert at the Academy of Music.

*BéLO*

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## POV

Point of View: Portland Ovations' Blog

## BéIO – Local Connections

Posted on [October 23, 2012](#) by [Marieke Van Der Steenhoven](#)

It's hard to believe that November is just around the corner, but with November comes another surge of exciting Portland Ovations performances.

On



Sunday, November 4th we'll be presenting [BéIO](#) at Hannaford Hall on the USM Portland Campus. Out of this presentation has grown an amazing community collaboration with [Konbit Sante Cap-Haitien Health Partnership](#). Konbit Sante's goal is to improve the health of the people of northern Haiti – and they are based here in Portland. Together with Haitian health providers, volunteers and staff build local capacity in all aspects of the health system. In Haitian Creole, a *konbit* is a traditional Haitian method of working together to till your friends' fields as well as your own. *Sante* means health. So the name means "working together for health."

With the help of our friends at Konbit Sante we've arranged an amazing [pre-performance lecture](#). Renowned Haitian storyteller and artist [Charlot Lucien](#) will talk about Haiti's rich and complex cultural, historical and social landscape. Charlot, a Konbit Sante board member, will provide an ideal preface for appreciating BéIO's socially conscious lyrics and humanitarian ethos.

The Monday following the performance we'll also be hosting a cultural sharing workshop for high school students at Portland High School; an opportunity for globally-engaged students to meet BéIO and learn about his music and humanitarian work. The workshop is from 2:30-4pm and to register please contact Oventions Offstage at [offstage@portlandovations.org](mailto:offstage@portlandovations.org) or (207) 773-3150 ext. 3; registration is \$5 for non-Portland High School students.

Be sure to join us in November – and in the waning bit of October left, you can check out BéIO's latest music video below and like our community partner Konbit Sante on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KonbitSanteHealthPartnership>.

This entry was posted in [2012-13 General](#), [Global Traditions](#), [Oventions Offstage](#) and tagged [BéIO](#), [Charlot Lucien](#), [Konbit Sante](#), [Portland High School](#) by [Marieke Van Der Steenhoven](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#) [<http://blog.portlandovations.org/?p=107>] .

## 2 comments

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**Marieke Van Der Steenhoven** • 20 hours ago

Just came back from Portland High School where BelO played for 40+ students and faculty - so much fun. An intimate Q&A ranged from issues of gender in Haiti to the power of music to enact positive change.



0 | • Reply • Share ›



**Chip Kibort** • a day ago

What an incredible performance last night! I am glad it was part of Center StageSM as I enjoyed the conversational nature of the concert and getting the chance to learn more about Haiti and the artist BéIO.

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# Grooves for Good:

## *Bélo Rocks His African Roots to Inspire Change at Home in Haiti and Abroad*

**Bay Chamber presents a free, unplugged "Artist Encounter" with Haitian reggae star BéLO, and a Performance at Maine State Prison**

**Unplugged "Artist Encounter"**  
**Thursday, November 1, 6:30pm**  
**Bay Chamber's Music School recital hall**  
**FREE**

Before performing at Rockland's Strand Theatre on Saturday, November 3, Haitian reggae star BéLO will be sharing his music, message and culture with the Midcoast Maine community thanks to Bay Chamber's Community Engagement Program. BéLO's participation is supported by Center for Cultural Exchange Foundation and New England Foundation for the Arts.

At 6:30pm on November 1, Bay Chamber is hosting a **FREE** "artist encounter" with BéLO that is open to the community. The artist will take advantage of the intimate setting of Bay Chamber's Music School recital hall to perform an acoustic sampling of his songs. In addition, BéLO will discuss Haitian culture, the messages in his songwriting, and answer questions. Bay Chamber's Music School is located at 18



Central Street in Rockport.

Seating is limited! Please call (207) 236-2823 or email [shaunna@baychamberconcerts.org](mailto:shaunna@baychamberconcerts.org) to reserve your spot.

### Maine State Prison Performance

As part of Bay Chamber Concerts' Community Engagement Program, BéLO and his five-piece band will perform for inmates and staff at Maine State Prison on Thursday, November 1.

Community Engagement at Bay Chamber is designed to promote connection and musical engagement between artists and participants. At its core is artistic excellence - professional musicians who combine spectacular artistic ability with a dedication to bringing the transformative power of music into communities. Understanding that each venue has its own unique needs and goals, Community Engagement is collaboration between the presenting organization and the partner organizations. To engage with people of diverse ages, backgrounds, and abilities, Bay Chamber welcomes classically trained musicians as well as performers of other musical genres.



### A Musician with a Mission

BéLO, Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation. BéLO keeps the socially conscious spirit of reggae alive, while drawing on the vibrant sounds of his artsy native town of Croix des Bouquet, and a globally informed, upbeat pan-African vibe. It was there BéLO first performed as a shy grade-schooler, and recorded his first tape.

Both before and after Haiti's 2010 earthquake, BéLO has made music and performance a powerful platform for addressing issues and transforming opinion. Whether singing to children in orphanages or raising awareness of AIDS, BéLO knows exactly why he does what he



does, as audiences across the U.S. will experience in September and October 2012 thanks to BÉLO's participation in Center StageSM ([www.centerstageUS.org](http://www.centerstageUS.org)).

"With the love I have for my country, I can only give back," he reflects. "I make music because I really want things to change, and I believe in the power of music to do that. For that reason, Center Stage is very important to me as an artist. Not only will I be able to learn more about the American culture, but I can also share my culture with a broader audience and show the good side of Haiti."

An initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Center Stage brings compelling contemporary artists from Haiti, Indonesia, and Pakistan to the United States to engage the American people in cultural diplomacy as a way to create opportunities for greater understanding. Administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with funding from the Asian Cultural Council, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, this public-private partnership is the largest public diplomacy effort to bring foreign artists to American stages in recent history.

**Performance at Rockland's  
Strand Theatre  
Featuring BÉLO and his 5-piece  
band**

**Saturday, November 3, 7pm**

*General Admission*

*75 minute performance, no  
intermission*

BÉLO and his band will perform at the Strand Theatre in Rockland on Saturday, November 3 at 7pm. His remarkable voice and dynamic live performances powerfully connect the music of his native island to the vibrant Parisian

Afro-global music scene. BÉLO and his five-piece band deliver a high-energy mix of jazz, worldbeat, rock, R&B, reggae and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm known as *Ragganga* that is sure to get you on your feet dancing and singing along!

**Tickets: \$35 | Ages 21-35: \$25 | Under age 21: \$10**

Attend 3 or more Bay Chamber events this season and SAVE! [Click here](#) for details.

[Click here to purchase tickets online](#)

To order tickets by phone, call (207) 236-2823



## Haiti's musical ambassador brings his message to New London

By AMY J. BARRY, Special to the Day

BéLO, a young singer-songwriter with a high-energy, joyful sound, has been on a mission since the age of 11-one that has since brought him across the United States from his home in Petion-Ville, Haiti.

His tour of towns across America, including New London, is part of a new cultural diplomacy initiative called Center StageSM. It's the musician's first visit to Connecticut.

A program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, Center StageSM brings performing artists from Haiti, Indonesia and Pakistan to the U.S. to interact with audiences and create opportunities for greater understanding of their cultures.

On his 33rd birthday, from his hotel room in Massachusetts, BéLO spoke to Daybreak about his music and his role as a musical ambassador for Haiti.

**Q. Your music has so many rich influences-reggae, rock, jazz, worldbeat, Ragganga and Rara. Can you talk about the unique sound that you've developed?**

**A.** Just like you can see a mixture of Haitian traditional music along with modern styles and jazz, I think I'm inspired to have this style of music because of the history of Haiti and how people live in Haiti.

**Q. You started playing music as a young boy. When did you realize that music is a tool for social action, as well as pleasure?**

**A.** At 11 years old, I decided to be a professional musician. I knew my mission was to be an activist musician; a messenger from my country. I was chosen to do this - I feel this is what I was born to be, not a decision I made for myself. At 14 years old, I created a band with some of my friends - a boys' band singing. I didn't know how to play any instrument. At 18, I started to play guitar and write really social conscious music.

**Q. Why did you join the Center Stage initiative as an artist?**

**A.** What I like the most about this program is the fact that it's not just a performance where you play music and go. There is sharing. We have community activities and I can sit down with the people and let them know much more about my country. They have an opportunity to ask questions about Haiti. It's a very important part of the program that I love so much. Of course, doing a show, you can just play music and give two or three messages. But I'm spending one hour talking with American people. It's a way to show them the face of Haiti.

**Q. What do you most want people to understand about your country-about the people of Haiti?**

**A.** The most important thing for me is to let people understand Haiti isn't just this poor country people see on the news, on TV. Haiti is also a beautiful country, one of the countries in the Caribbean that's culturally very rich, has a lot to share, and is learning a lot from the world. It's not just hurricanes, or lots of problems in this country-we want you to know that's not all. We have good musicians, artists, hospitality. We want more people to be interested, know the story of this country, and maybe visit our country.

**Q. Why is music so important in Haitian culture?**

**A.** Because here in American most people know how to read. But in Haiti most of the people don't. They can't find the message in the newspaper. Music is one of the biggest mediums for them to learn. Not only for entertainment, but to give messages. In the particular case of Haiti, music is very important. In fact, we have a president now who was a very famous musician. They voted for him because they knew him and loved his music, not just because he was a good politician. Haiti is a musical country. To me this is like a tool we can use positively or negatively, but I'm sure everyone will choose to use it positively-it's what I choose to do with my music.

**Q. How is the tour going?**

**A.** Very positive so far. I have lots of new friends on Facebook. People love the music.

What: BelO in concert

Where: Evans Hall, Connecticut College, New London

When: Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

Cost: \$22, general admission; \$20 seniors; \$11 students.

Tickets and information: Call (860) 439-ARTS (2787) or visit <http://onstage.conncoll.edu>.

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November 9, 2012

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### Live Lunch Break: BeLO

Published 11/08/2012 12:00 AM Updated 11/08/2012 02:32 PM



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Haitian musician BeLO performs live at The Day in advance of his Friday night concert at Connecticut College.

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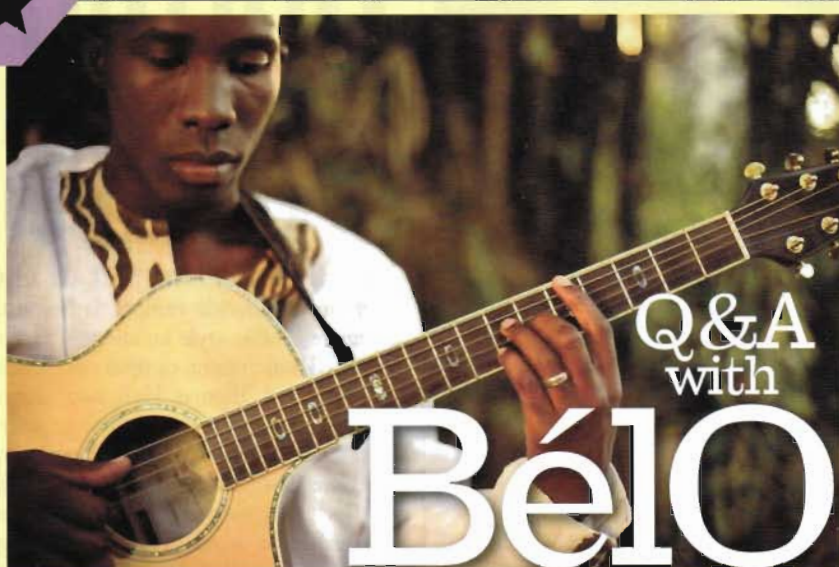
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**On Nov. 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m., Bélo, an internationally renowned Ragganga musician and Haiti native, will take the stage at the Squitieri Studio Theatre (University of Florida Performing Arts.) Below, he shares his special bond with his country and his music.**

**Q: You have been called Haiti's musical ambassador to the world. How does your music tell Haiti's story?**

One of the missions of my music is to change the Haitian mentality – I mean the new generation needs a new vision to make things change. My lyrics are based on the Haitian reality, the everyday living of the youth and, of course, the dream of a better day.

**Q: Your reputation as a socially conscious performer has been inspiring to many. Do you see yourself as a role model?**

I always saw myself as a humanitarian and activist artist. I think every artist should be a role model, because we have a bigger audience than one father/mother of a family, but the role is the same. We have a responsibility to help build a better tomorrow. As an artist, I have to be mindful of what kind of message I send to the youth of my country.

**Q: What has been your favorite performance?**

Every performance is different from place to place, but my experience in South Korea was one of my favorites. Seeing young and old trying to sing along and making a conscious effort to understand my message. Every show is a piece to my puzzle, and giving a better image of my country overseas is my goal.

**Q: Who or what inspired your passion for music?**

A: My lovely country is one of my biggest motivations to be a musician. Music is a very powerful tool and can make positive changes. Haitian musicians, like Manno Charlemagne, Emeline Michel, Eddy Francois or even Tracy Chapman and Angelique Kidjo, inspired my passion for music.

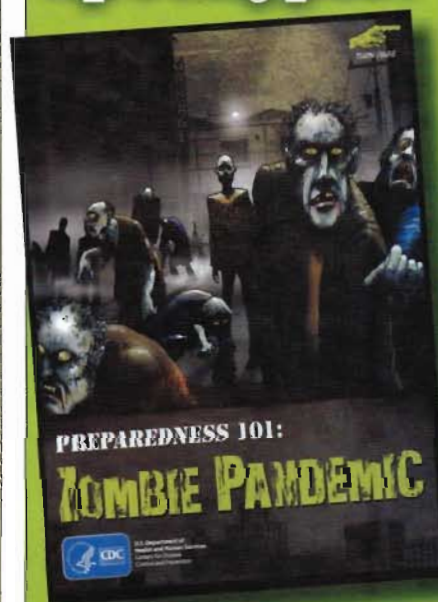
**Q: What advice would you give to young, aspiring musicians?**

A: Educate yourself – that's my first advice to a young aspiring musician. Second, if you want to be a musician, never forget your roots, be yourself, be confident and open your mind.

## TurboVote: simplifying the voting process

This year, the University of Florida's Bob Graham Center partnered with TurboVote to assist citizens with the voting process. TurboVote is a nonprofit organization that helps members register to vote or request an absentee ballot. Its services are accessible through <https://ufl.turbovote.org>. For those already registered, the organization also helps with deadline reminders and provides information on election issues.

Are you  
prepared  
for a  
**zombie**  
apocalypse?



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wants to make sure that you have your zombie apocalypse plan. Now that the season of haunts, ghouls and zombies is upon us, the CDC is determined to make sure that the living dead won't be of any threat to you and your family. So how do you prepare for the zombie apocalypse? You can start by making sure your place of residence is well equipped with things like water, food and flashlights. You can also keep your loved ones safe from the living dead by having an emergency plan, meeting place and list of emergency contacts ready to go. If you'd like more instructions about making your own effective zombie apocalypse plan, you can visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and type "zombie" into the search.



## Haitian sensation BÉLO to 'peak' at Kravis

Written by Staff Report / Saturday, 27 October 2012



WEST PALM BEACH — The Rayond F. Kravis Center for the Arts is launching its cutting-edge P.E.A.K. series — Provocative Entertainment at Kravis — with BÉLO, the singing phenom from Haiti, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

BÉLO's concert will be held in the outdoor Gosman Amphitheatre. Guests are invited to bring their lawn chairs and picnic baskets.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the Kravis Center Box Office, 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach, online at [kravis.org/belo](http://kravis.org/belo) or by calling 561-832-7469 or 800-572-8471. Group orders of 10 or more receive a discount and may be placed by calling 561-651-4438 or 561-651-4304.

BÉLO, Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation.

### PAN-AFRICAN COHESION

BÉLO keeps the socially conscious spirit of reggae alive, while drawing on the vibrant sounds of his artsy native town of Croix des Bouquet, and a globally informed, upbeat pan-African vibe.

It was there BÉLO first performed as a shy grade-schooler, and recorded his first tape. During summers he spent time with his grandparents in a remote village, where he heard and experienced vodou, Haiti's unique mix of spiritual and musical traditions that permeates all aspects of rural life and helps support social cohesion.

Both before and after Haiti's 2010 earthquake, BÉLO has made music and performance a powerful platform for addressing issues and transforming opinion.

Whether singing to children in orphanages or raising awareness of AIDS, BÉLO knows exactly why he does what he does, as audiences across the U.S. are experiences thanks to his participation in CenterStage ([centerstageUS.org](http://centerstageUS.org)), an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

### 'GOOD SIDE OF HAITI'

"With the love I have for my country, I can only give back," he said. "I make music because I really want things to change, and I believe in the power of music to do that. For that reason, Center Stage is very important to me as an artist. Not only will I be able to learn more about the American culture, but I can also share my culture with a broader audience and show the good side of Haiti."

Center Stage brings compelling contemporary artists from Haiti, Indonesia, and Pakistan to the United States to engage Americans in cultural diplomacy as a way to create opportunities for greater understanding.

Administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, with funding from the Asian Cultural Council, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, the public-private partnership is the largest public diplomacy effort to bring foreign artists to American stages in recent history.

The Kravis' P.E.A.K. series, made possible by a grant from the MLDaury Arts Initiative in honor of Leonard and Sophie Davis, focuses on ethnic diversity and contemporary themes, to elevate the creation and understanding of artistic expression, with an emphasis on performers drawn from diverse cultural backgrounds and communities.

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Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 | 12:28 p.m.

In partnership with: The Palm Beach Post

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Posted: 12:00 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012

## BeLO brings consciousness sounds to Kravis

By Janis Fontaine

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The Kravis Center's Provocative Entertainment at Kravis turns the spotlight on cutting-edge Haitian guitarist and songwriter BeLO Saturday.

Born in Haiti in 1979, BeLO won the prestigious Prix Radio France International Discoveries of 2006 for his skillful blend of reggae, jazz, rock, worldbeat and traditional rhythms, called ragganga. But it may be the message in BeLO's acoustic, guitar-driven songs that makes him an extraordinary talent. His lively reggae rhythms and catchy melodies reflect a strong social conscience and commitment to education, equality and the environment, all sung in his native language, Haitian Creole.

The Kravis' goal with PEAK is to present thought-provoking art which highlights ethnic diversity, and BeLO squarely hits that mark.

---

BeLO

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: The Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach

Tickets: \$15 and up

Info: 561-832-5196; Kravis.org

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# BéLO

**Saturday, November 3, 2012**  
**7pm**  
**Strand Theatre, Rockland**  
**(open seating)**

**75 minute performance, no intermission**

*Supported by Center for Cultural Exchange Foundation and New England Foundation for the Arts*



**Tickets: \$35**

**Ages 21-35: \$25**

**Under age 21: \$10**

[Tickets >](#)

Hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador to the world, and an outspoken groove innovator, BéLO's remarkable voice and dynamic live performances powerfully connect the music of his native island to the vibrant Parisian Afro-global music scene. A young, socially conscious singer-songwriter, BéLO and his five-piece band deliver a high-energy mix of jazz, worldbeat, rock, R&B, reggae and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm known as *Ragganga* that is sure to get you on your feet dancing and singing along.

*"His mix of reggae with jazz and slicker pop has made him a star both at home and in Europe."*

**New York Daily News**

BéLO is one of UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassadors in Haiti. His participation in our Winter Performing Arts Series will include a performance at Maine State Prison as part of Bay Chamber Concerts Community Engagement Program, and a workshop for students and faculty at Bay Chamber Concerts Music School.

[www.belohaiti.com](http://www.belohaiti.com)

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PRESENTS



## Haiti's Bélo

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(box office fees may apply)

**Academy Box Office Tues-Fri 3-6pm**  
**274 Main Street Northampton MA**  
**413.584.9032 x105**

Box Office

[www.academyofmusictheatre.com](http://www.academyofmusictheatre.com)

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## BÉLO: On Tour as a part of Center Stage

Date: 10/25/2012 Time: 7:30 pm

### Location

Academy of Music



BÉLO has been hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador to the world. With his electrified acoustic guitar, he sings ballad and other song forms in French or kreyol mixing in beats from reggae, soul, Haitian roots and other traditional Haitian sounds. A socially conscious folk singer, active in many humanitarian efforts to rebuild Haiti, BÉLO interacts with the audience, speaking to them about the content of his songs. BÉLO's humanitarian work to rebuild Haiti has been featured on Frontline/PBS.



### Show Date/ Time:

Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 7:30 PM

### Ticket Prices:

General Admission/\$18; Seniors & Students/\$16

### Where/ How Tickets Can be Purchased:

Academy of Music Box Office Open Tuesday- Friday 3:00PM-6:00PM

Call: 413-584-9032 ext.105 (Service fees will apply with purchase)

**Online Tickets Click on Show Desired:** <http://academyofmusictheatre.tix.com>

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Oct 21

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Oct 23

Shawn & Gwenn: A Boy, A Girl,  
A Virus and the Relationship  
that Happened Anyway

Oct 24

BÉLO: Haiti's Ambassador of  
Peace, A Community Forum

Oct 25

BÉLO: On Tour as a part of  
Center Stage

Oct 26

A Brown Bear, A Moon, and a  
Caterpillar: Treasured Stories  
by Eric Carle

Oct 27

Pioneer Valley Symphony –  
Great Music for Great Films

Oct 28

Mister G's Halloween Fiesta

Oct 28

Bach Sonatas for Flute and  
Harpsichord

Nov 3

Valley Light Opera presents  
Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience

Nov 4

Valley Light Opera presents  
Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience

Nov 9

Valley Light Opera presents  
Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience

Nov 10

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# Bélo

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7PM  
STRAND THEATRE, ROCKLAND**

A young, socially conscious singer-songwriter, Bélo and his five-piece band deliver a high-energy mix of reggae, jazz, worldbeat, rock, R&B, and Afro-Haitian traditional rhythm



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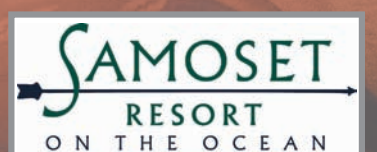
**Tickets: \$35**

**Ages 21-35: \$25 Under 21: \$10**

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**Tickets: [www.baychamberconcerts.org](http://www.baychamberconcerts.org) or (207) 236-2823**

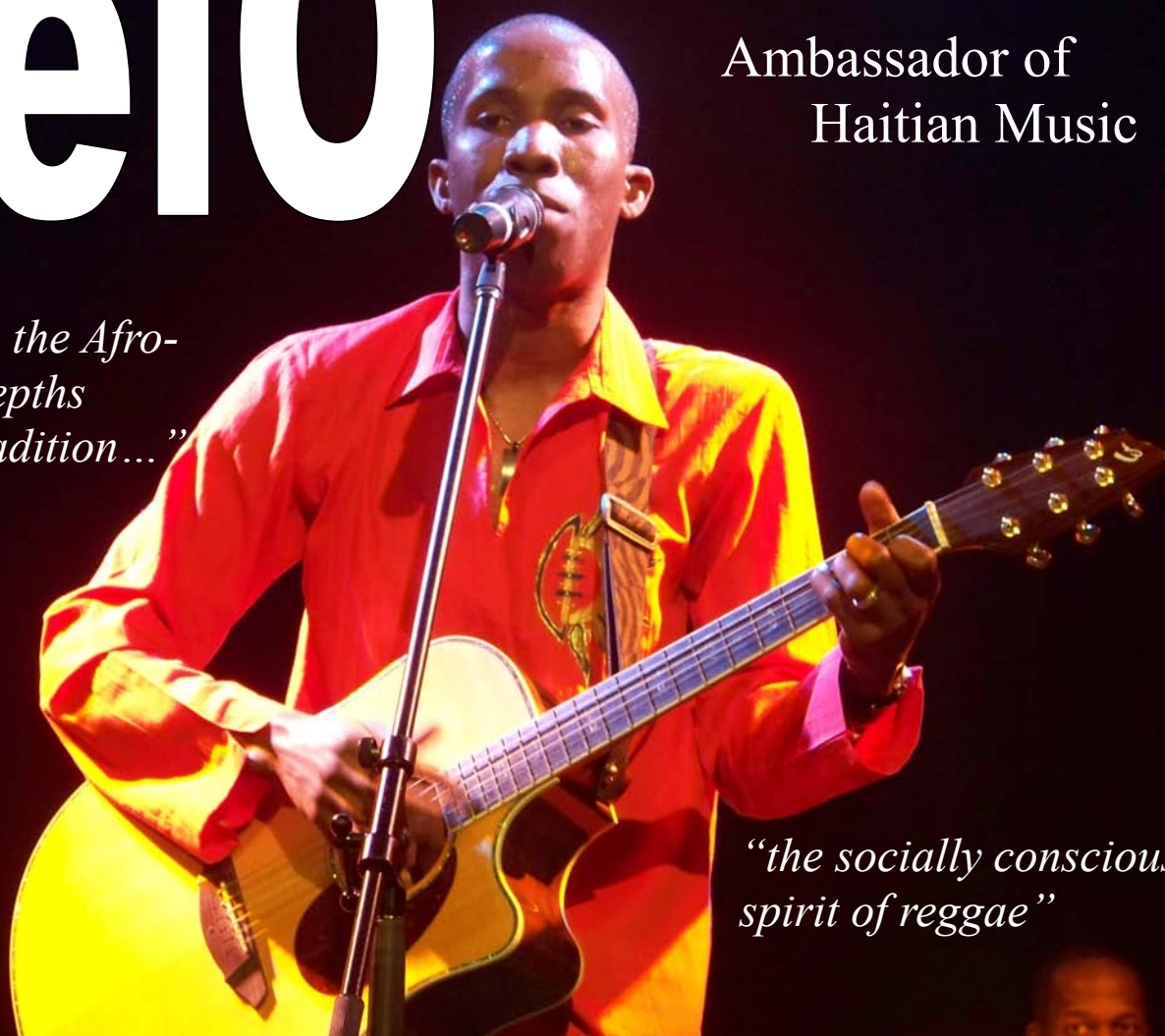
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is a 501 (c)(3) registered non-profit organization

In Cooperation with CenterStage & the U.S. Department of State

# Beio

Ambassador of  
Haitian Music

*"interweaves the Afro-  
Caribbean depths  
of Haitian tradition..."*



*"the socially conscious  
spirit of reggae"*

Friday, November 2     7:30 PM

  
the  
**Opera House**  
at BOOTHBAY HARBOR

**Sponsored by The Knickerbocker Group**

**Advance Tickets \$15**

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# onStage

music ■ dance ■ theater  
AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



## BÉLO

Haitian Singer/Songwriter

**Friday, Nov 9, 2012 — 8 PM**

Evans Hall



"His mix of reggae with jazz and slicker pop has made him a star both at home and in Europe." — New York Daily News

BÉLO has been hailed as Haiti's musical ambassador to the world. A young, socially conscious singer/songwriter with a sophisticated sound, he has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Prix Radio France International Discoveries of 2006. His musical style, known as "Ragganga," combines reggae, jazz, rock, worldbeat and "Rara" traditional Vodou rhythms. He sings in his rich and colorful native language, Haitian Creole. BÉLO is a sensitive messenger who, with his melodies, knows how to touch audiences from the Americas to Europe to Africa.

The presentation of BÉLO is part of Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General Management for Center Stage<sup>SM</sup> is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.

TICKETS: \$22; Senior: \$20; Student: \$11; Faculty/Staff: \$20; Senior Faculty/Staff: \$18 (General Admission)

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# onStage

AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE 2012 ■ 2013  
■ music ■ dance ■ theater

## Bélo

### — Haitian Singer/Songwriter

On tour as part of Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>

Friday, Nov. 9, 2012

8 p.m., Evans Hall

Connecticut College, New London

“His mix of reggae with jazz and slicker pop has made him a star both at home and in Europe.” — New York Daily News

Bélo has been hailed as Haiti’s musical ambassador to the world. His musical style, known as “Ragganga,” combines reggae, jazz, rock, worldbeat and “Rara” traditional Vodou rhythms. He sings in his rich and colorful native language, Haitian Creole.

Tickets: \$22; Seniors: \$20; Students: \$11  
(general admission)

■ FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CALL 860-439-ARTS (2787)  
OR VISIT [ONSTAGE.CONNCOLL.EDU](http://ONSTAGE.CONNCOLL.EDU)



Junenore Mitchel



Hibernian Hall presents

For his first appearance in **Boston**  
Haitian international singer-songwriter

# Bélo

**Friday, October 26, 2012**

184 Dudley Street  
Roxbury, MA 02119

Show starts at 8PM

Tickets: \$20 available at  
[www.madison-park.org](http://www.madison-park.org)



Madison Park  
Development Corporation



CENTERSTAGE

# Bélo

On tour as part of Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>



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*Presented in collaboration with Konbit Sante*

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nafa  
NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

# BéLO

**Sunday, November 4, 2012**

7 pm

Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

Tickets: \$34

Members: \$31

Student Deal: \$10

[Buy Tickets](#)

*NOTE: Student Deal and Member tickets are not available online. To purchase these tickets, call PortTIX at 207.842.0800 or visit the PortTIX Box Office at Merrill Auditorium.*

## Ovation Offstage

Pre-Performance Lecture: Haiti's Other Side:  
Memories and Perspectives

Sunday, November 4, 2012 · 6-6:45 pm

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nafa  
NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS



[Tweet](#)

A generosity of spirit powers BéLO's polished, often urgent, always catchy songs and permeates his onstage presence. Known as Haiti's outspoken groove innovator, BéLO channels his home's deep and diverse Afro-Caribbean roots with the beat of reggae and the soul of R&B. An award-winning songwriter, his socially conscious lyrics and humanitarian ethos inspire change at home and abroad. Beyond Haiti, BéLO has gained international fame in Europe as part of the Paris' Francophone African music scene. BéLO and his five-piece band's punchy, energetic Ragganga gets audiences on their feet dancing.

Presented in collaboration with

**Konbit Sante**  
KAP-HAITIEN HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

**"His mix of reggae with jazz and slicker pop has made him a star both at home and in Europe."**

— New York Daily News

# BéLO

Haiti native BéLO is a young author, composer, guitarist, singer and winner of numerous awards, including the prestigious Prix Radio France International Discoveries of 2006. His musical style, known as Ragganga, combines reggae, jazz, rock, worldbeat and rara – traditional Vodou rhythms. BéLO's commitment to helping the less fortunate in Haiti has intensified after an earthquake rocked his homeland in 2010. He was recently the subject of a *Time* magazine video feature titled *BéLO: Singing for Haiti*.

To view BéLO's program, [click here](#).

*This presentation is part of Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General Management for Center Stage<sup>SM</sup> is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.*

## BéLO

November 13, 2012 at 7:30 pm;

November 14, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Location: [Squitieri Studio Theatre](#)

Tickets:

Reserved seating: \$25

UF students: \$10

[Buy tickets online »](#)

Related sites:

[BéLO website](#)



### Event Sponsors

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Artist photos, clockwise from above: Trey McIntyre Project, Bélo, Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music, Benise, Elvis Lives!, Riders in the Sky, David Finckel and Wu Han.



A University of Florida Performing Arts  
20th Anniversary performance.

### The Warsaw Philharmonic Antoni Wit, General and Artistic Director Yulianna Avdeeva, Piano

Sunday, November 4, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25-45 (UF students: \$10)

From major concert halls to international festivals, The Warsaw Philharmonic has performed more than 120 tours on five continents. Acclaimed for its execution of Beethoven and Tchaikovsky pieces, the orchestra's accolades include Grammy nominations, the Classical Internet Award and multiple "Fryderyk" Awards. Under the direction of Antoni Wit, the ensemble has hosted eminent artists including Martha Argerich and Joshua Bell. For this performance, pianist Yulianna Avdeeva joins the orchestra. She recently became the first woman in 45 years to win First Prize in the International Fryderyk Chopin Competition.

### The Capitol Steps

Monday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20-50 (UF students: \$10)

The masters of political satire return to the Phillips Center on the eve of the presidential election and no candidate is safe. The Capitol Steps plan to bring down the house ... and Senate with their unique blend of music and political comedy. Nowhere else will you find two presidential candidates singing showtunes onstage. Larry King said of the Capitol Steps, "They're the best. There's no one like them, no one in their league."

Sponsored by *The Gainesville Sun*

### Benise *En Fuego!*

Wednesday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20-40 (UF students: \$10)

Fresh off their blockbuster tour through Asia, Emmy-winning Spanish guitarist Benise and his International Dance Troupe perform their hottest show to date. Called "The Latin Riverdance" by the *Los Angeles Times*, *En Fuego!* showcases classic songs from artists including Led Zeppelin, Queen and The Eagles, and marries them with Spanish guitar and dance, and Broadway caliber sets. Fun for the whole family, Benise's *En Fuego!* combines the cultures of the world through music and dance.

### Siberian Virtuosi

Sunday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.

University Auditorium

Tickets: \$15-25 (UF students: \$10)

Siberian Virtuosi was recently chosen to represent Russia at the World Expo, and serves as the State Ensemble of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Comprised of 12 violinists and a pianist, the ensemble has performed in more than a dozen countries across Europe and Asia, including France, Austria, Italy, Germany and the U.K. In 2009, Siberian Virtuosi celebrated its 15th anniversary with a tour encompassing 28 cities.



### BéLO

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13 and 14, 7:30 p.m.

Squitieri Studio Theatre

Tickets: \$25 (UF students: \$10)

Long before an earthquake ravaged his homeland, BéLO was dedicated to improving the life of his fellow Haitians through a variety of philanthropic causes. The singer/guitarist/writer/composer was recently the subject of a *Time* magazine video feature titled *BéLO: Singing for Haiti*. His musical style, known as Ragganga combines reggae, jazz, rock, worldbeat and rara — traditional Vodou rhythms.

Center Stage® is a program of the Center for the Performing Arts, an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts, in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with additional support from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. General Management for Center Stage® is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.

Sponsored by **UF&Shands** and *HOME Magazine*

### Young Concert Artist: Charlie Albright, Piano

Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m. | Squitieri Studio Theatre

Tickets: \$30 (UF students: \$10)

Hailed by *The Washington Post* as, "among the most gifted musicians of his generation" and praised by *The New York Times* for his "jaw-dropping technique," Charlie Albright is considered one of brightest young stars in classical music. Just 24, Albright has collaborated four times with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, played with some of the nation's most prestigious orchestras and released his debut CD, *Vivace*, in 2011.

Sponsored by **UF&Shands**

### Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music

Wednesday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children and UF students

The smash-hit musical show that has been all around the world now comes to Gainesville. For those of you not yet converted, Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music is a screening of the classic Julie Andrews film musical in glorious, full-screen technicolor, complete with subtitles so the whole audience can sing along. Then, there is the famous fancy-dress competition in which everyone who has come in costume is invited onto the stage to show off their tailoring skills. Get those vocal chords warmed up, cut up those chintz curtains and hurry down for the perfect night out. Fancy dress is not obligatory but highly recommended.

### The Chucho Valdés Quintet

Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m. | University Auditorium

Tickets: \$20-30 (UF students: \$10)

Called "the dean of Latin jazz" by *The New York Times*, Chucho Valdés has won five Grammys and is a Latin Jazz Hall of Fame inductee. Valdés has collaborated with industry titans Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Wynton Marsalis and Carlos Santana, and his music was featured on the soundtrack of the critically-acclaimed motion picture, *El Benny*. His most recent album, *Chucho's Steps*, won the Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2011.

### David Finckel and Wu Han

Sunday, November 25, 2 p.m. | University Auditorium

Tickets: \$20-30 (UF students: \$10)

*The New York Times* called cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han, "exploratory artists who have thought outside the box," and the duo was named Musical America's 2012 Musicians of the Year. Finckel and Han regularly perform in the most prestigious venues and concert series across the U.S. and were recently appointed artistic directors of Chamber Music Today, a new festival to be held annually at the Seoul Arts Center in Korea.

Sponsored by **SFI**

### West Side Story

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 27 and 28, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$30-50 (UF students: \$15)

More than 50 years ago, one musical changed theater forever. Now it's back and mesmerizing audiences once again. From the first note to the final breath, *West Side Story* soars as the greatest love story of all time. This revival, based on Tony Award-winning librettist Arthur Laurents' Broadway direction, remains as powerful, poignant and timely as ever. The Bernstein and Sondheim score is considered to be one of Broadway's finest and features such classics of American musical theatre as *Something's Coming*, *Tonight*, *America*, *I Feel Pretty* and *Somewhere*. As the Associated Press said, "*West Side Story* remains Broadway's best dance-driven musical. Five decades have not dimmed the extraordinary choreography or the score that pulsates throughout."

Sponsored by **Dharma Endowment Foundation**, *Gainesville Magazine* and **Oak Hammock at the University of Florida**

### Riders in the Sky *Christmas the Cowboy Way*

Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m. | University Auditorium

Tickets: \$20-35 (UF students: \$10)

Gear up for the holidays with Riders in the Sky's presentation of *Christmas the Cowboy Way*. For this performance, the Grammy-winning quartet blends a festive mix of western classics, traditional Christmas music and the Riders' original yuletide carols in a holiday spectacular sure to delight Saddle Pals of all ages. For 35 years the Riders have spread their legendary wacky humor and way-out western wit, and they are still riding, performing and living life "The Cowboy Way!"

### Trey McIntyre Project

Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20-35 (UF students: \$10)

After recently completing a tour arranged by the U.S. State Department that spanned Vietnam, China, South Korea and the Philippines, the Trey McIntyre Projects brings its "fresh and forward-thinking" choreography to the Phillips Center. The acclaimed dance troupe will perform *Bad Winter*, *Ladies and Gentle Men* and *Leatherwing Bat*, which *The New York Times* said "beautifully straddles the line between the whimsical and the poignant."

South Arts and NEA are proud sponsors of this performance. This performance is funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Sponsored by **Gainesville Health & Fitness** and *Gainesville Today*

### Pinina Becher

*Piano Reserva - A Scarlatti Soirée*

Monday, December 31, 2 and 5 p.m. | Squitieri Studio Theatre

Tickets: \$50 gallery, \$65 tables

Experience the blending of fine wines, beautiful piano playing and elegant ambiance. World-renowned pianist Pinina Becher pays musical tribute to famous composer Domenico Scarlatti, as the audience follows his journey through the wine countries of his life. Scarlatti's sonatas are played in five parts and the wines selected for the audience are paired perfectly with each piece Becher will play. Be a part of this new way to enjoy classical music.

Table and gallery seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets may only be purchased by calling or visiting the Phillips Center Box Office. ID will be checked to verify ticket holders are at least 21 years of age.

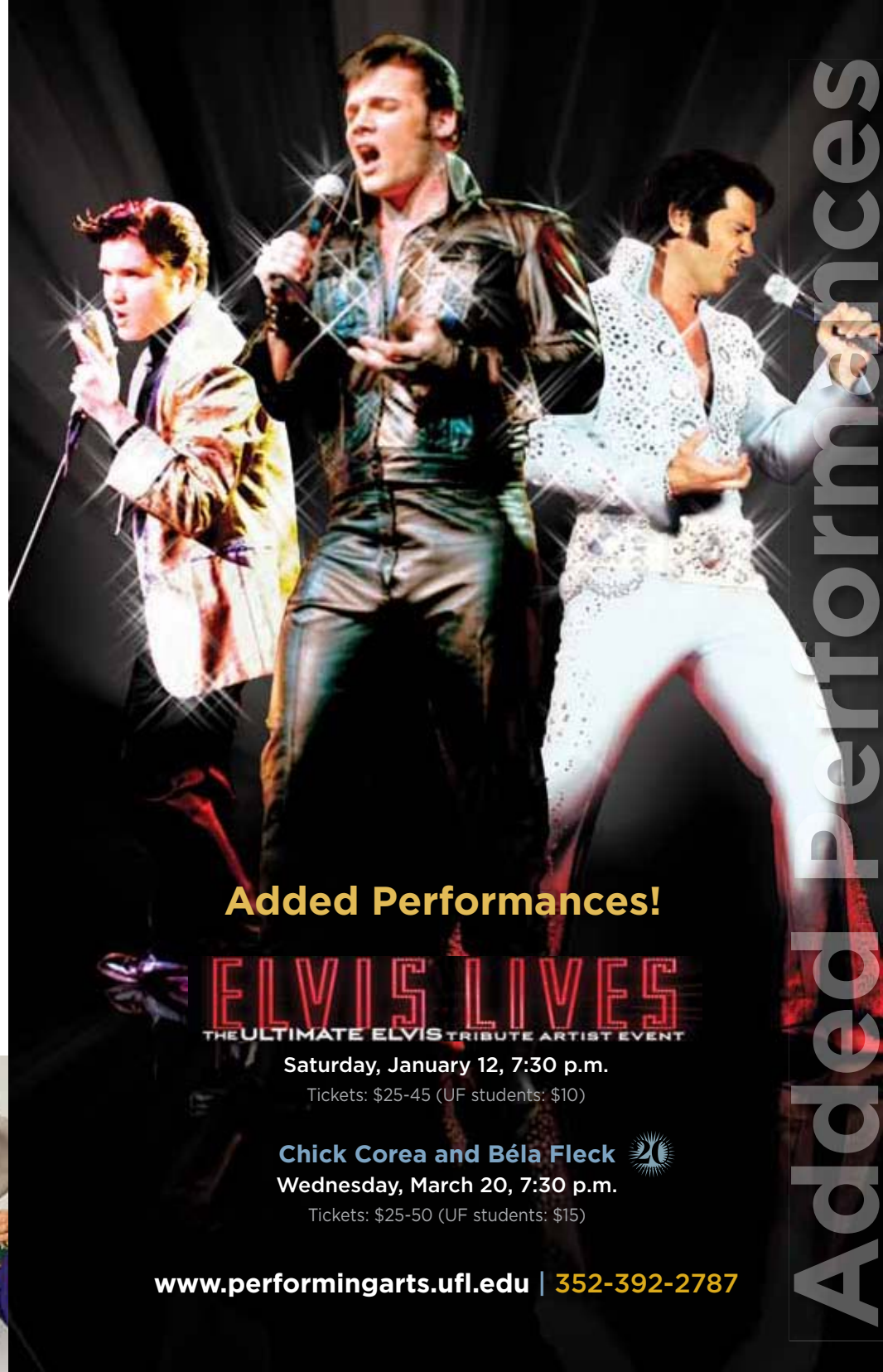


## UFPA presents Specticast

### Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*

Sunday, November 18, 3 p.m.

From the Roman quarry of the open-air stage at St. Margarethen, it's no wonder *Aida* is featured at Europe's cherished Opera Festival in Austria that attracts more than 200,000 opera fans annually. *Aida* revolves around the forbidden love story between the Egyptian leader Radames and the beautiful Ethiopian princess Aida. But this opera proves more than a love story. Thematic pyrotechnical effects, elephants and horses onstage and more than 400 participants bring this unique opera to life.



## Added Performances!

**ELVIS LIVES!**  
THE ULTIMATE ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST EVENT

Saturday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25-45 (UF students: \$10)

### Chick Corea and Béla Fleck

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25-50 (UF students: \$15)

[www.performingarts.ufl.edu](http://www.performingarts.ufl.edu) | 352-392-2787

Added Performances

## BéLO to bring unique Haitian sound to Squitieri Studio Theatre, Nov. 13 and 14

Gainesville, Fla. – Haiti’s outspoken “groove innovator,” BéLO, will bring his Ragganga musical style – which combines reggae, jazz, rock, worldbeat and rara – to Gainesville for a pair of 7:30 p.m. performances at Squitieri Studio Theatre on Nov. 13 and 14.

Long before an earthquake ravaged his homeland, BéLO was dedicated to improving the life of his fellow Haitians through a variety of philanthropic causes. The singer/guitarist/writer/composer was recently the subject of a *Time* magazine video feature titled *BéLO: Singing for Haiti*, which can be viewed by visiting <http://bit.ly/Szxq53>.

BéLO will perform for U.S. audiences thanks to his participation in Center Stage<sup>SM</sup> – an initiative of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs that brings compelling contemporary artists from Haiti, Indonesia and Pakistan to the U.S to engage the American people in cultural diplomacy as a way to create opportunities for greater understanding.

“With the love I have for my country, I can only give back,” BéLO said. “I make music because I really want things to change, and I believe in the power of music to do that. For that reason, Center Stage is very important to me as an artist. Not only will I be able to learn more about the American culture, but I can also share my culture with a broader audience and show the good side of Haiti.”

Tickets are \$25 (only \$10 for students) and are on sale and available for this performance. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) or 800-905-ARTS (toll free within Florida), or visit [www.performingarts.ufl.edu](http://www.performingarts.ufl.edu) for more information.

BéLO to bring unique  
Haitian sound to Squitieri  
Studio Theatre, Nov. 13  
and 14

**P.E.A.K**  
PROVOCATIVE  
ENTERTAINMENT AT KRAVIS

**BéIO**  
on tour as part of Center Stage<sup>SM</sup>



**Saturday, November 17 at 7:30 pm**  
**Gosman Amphitheatre**

Haiti's acoustic innovator and social activist channels his home's deep and diverse Afro-Caribbean roots with catchy, reggae-inflected songs and R&B soul. BéIO's punchy, energetic vibes served up in Creole are a perfect fit for the dance hall or concert stage.

**Tickets start at \$15**

*Made possible by a grant from  
the MLDauray Arts Initiative in honor of Leonard and Sophie Davis*

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